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ON PAGE 1

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Ex-CIA head in Cambridge

Bush: Korean payoffs 'underinvestigated'

By David Nyhan
Globe Staff

Former Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush charged last night that South Korean government efforts to influence American congressmen have been "underinvestigated" and should be pursued vigorously.

Bush gave a dinner audience of Republicans in Cambridge a capsule view of world affairs, and in a brief interview afterward he expanded on his charge about the attempts of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) to influence American government actions.

"I just don't think anything has come out," he said. "It (the alleged practice of making payoffs to present and former congressmen) hasn't received anywhere near the attention that Watergate and stuff about the CIA had."

He added, "The CIA cooperated fully with the Justice Department."

Bush acknowledged that investigations of alleged South Korean influence-peddling in this country still are underway.

Bush made his charge about South Korean meddling in US affairs during an attack on the Democratic-controlled Congress in which he charged that congressional "sex scandals" also were "underinvestigated."

He later lamented that "the less than perfect government in South Korea gets all the criticism," instead of the even more repressive North Korean regime.

In an off-the-cuff review of national security before an audience of fewer than 500 at the annual Middlesex Club GOP dinner, Bush said:

"There is a real threat from the Soviet Union—it isn't all Pentagon propaganda."

A former US envoy in Peking, Bush said, "I see a movement in China which makes me feel optimistic about our relationship there."

"The situation in China is unclear," he said. "But, nevertheless, China no longer has that paranoia about encirclement."

The former UN delegation chief added, "Africa worries me. It's torn up and

in great chaos with Cubans in 30 countries."

Bush added he also is "concerned about Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand."

Cambodia, he noted, was "ripped asunder" by the new communist government. "Believe me, there has been one hell of a price paid" by the Cambodian people, he said, but he added, "There is no threat to world peace" in Southeast Asia.

Bush claimed that the Ford Administration had made considerable progress. "The new Administration was not handed a disastrous pile of problems on foreign affairs," he said.

There is an opportunity in the Mideast, Bush said, "for some kind of a lasting peace."

Jimmy Carter, he said, "deserves credit for his forthright statement" that some secrecy is needed in diplomacy and intelligence-gathering.

Bush defended the "need for secrecy when it comes to national security" and said Carter is "off to a reasonably good start" in foreign policy. "Some of the campaign rhetoric gave way to a more realistic approach."

Bush said that Carter faces a number of serious problems. The former GOP national chairman endorsed the concept of a "truly bipartisan foreign policy" and urged Republicans to resist the immediate temptation to "inevitably climb on the President," particularly concerning foreign policy matters.



GEORGE BUSH